

AIR FORCE *information* POLICY LETTER

★ FOR COMMANDERS

FROM OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

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DESPITE NECESSARY SECURITY RESTRICTIONS, the vital role being played by the U. S. Air Force in support of national policy during the Cuban crisis is clearly evident. Items that add up:

- The President praised two Air Force reconnaissance pilots and an Air Force photo evaluator as representatives of those whose work led to disclosure of the Soviet missile buildup in Cuba.
- The late Maj. Rudolf Anderson, Jr. and Maj. R. S. Heyser were named by SAC Commander Gen. Thomas S. Power as "the two reconnaissance pilots who, on October 14, obtained the first conclusive evidence of the Soviet missile buildup in Cuba."
- The President commended the Air Force for its "readiness at this time of crisis."
- The Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of Staff sent congratulations to all officers and men for "the exemplary manner in which [they] realigned and augmented the combat and support capabilities of the Air Force."
- ~~Secretary Anderson sent~~ a special message to members of the Air Reserve Forces who were mobilized for troop carrier and aerial port squadron duties and to Reserve recovery units that responded quickly to facilitate rapid dispersal of certain units of SAC, TAC and ADC to non-military airfields.
- The Chief of Naval Operations gave high praise to the commander of the unified command that implemented the Cuban quarantine (CINCLANT) and to Gen. Walter C. Sweeney, Jr., Commander of TAC and Air Forces Atlantic (AFLANT). He said: "The implementation of the quarantine was rapid and effective. It demonstrated dramatically the ability of the Air Force and Navy promptly to effect superb liaison..."

And while this special operation was being conducted, the Air Force was continuing to carry out its many global commitments -- including the very significant contribution to national objectives represented by a difficult but rapidly executed airlift of arms for the defense of India.

Commanders should pass information on this kind of recognition to their personnel through Commander's Call, Commander's Columns in base papers or other means.

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